Dr. Keith Simons’ Retirement

An outstanding professor, accomplished researcher and valued colleague will be retiring from the University of Manitoba this year. Dr. Keith Simons will retire from the College of Pharmacy after 40 years of service on June 30, 2015.

Dr. Keith J. Simons earned his BSc. (Pharm) degree from the University of Manitoba in 1966 and his MSc. in Pharmacy in 1969. He later completed his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, School of Pharmacy, in Seattle in 1975 under the supervision of Dr. Rene Levy.

What you won’t find on Dr. Simons curriculum vitae are some of the intangible attributes that he has provided friends, colleagues, students as a mentor, as a parent, as a spouse, and as a friend. Dr. Simons is a consummate professional and a true gentleman of great moral conviction and a distinguished disposition who always took the time to help others. We are all extremely proud of what Dr. Simons has achieved in his career and pharmacy is a better profession because of pharmacists like Keith.

Dr. Simons has made significant distinguished contributions to the field of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences over a long spanning career.

Dr. Simons joined the, then, Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba in 1975 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Full Professor in 1986. He moved up the ranks and has held a number of high-profile positions within the College of Pharmacy, including Division Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences from 1994-2004 and Associate Dean (Research) from 2004 to 2009. Dr. Simons served on and chaired most of the College of Pharmacy’s standing committees and various Faculty of Graduate Studies’ committees. He was a University of Manitoba Senator from 2003-2005. In the fall of 2013, he was awarded the inaugural Leslie F. Buggey Research Professorship.

During a career spanning over five decades Dr. Simons has rendered distinguished service and excellence in teaching. Dr. Simons has been a passionately committed and outstanding educator. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses in a variety of practice areas and has been recognized for his positive teaching methods. He has contributed to the education of more than 1,900 pharmacists, most of who are currently practicing in Manitoba. He has also supervised six Ph.D. students, six M.Sc. students, and two post-doctoral fellows. His trainees have all gone on to either academic positions or high level positions in the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Simons is a prolific author with over 400 scholarly articles, abstracts, books, and book chapters, and is frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences. He has received competitive research grants and industry funding totalling several million dollars which is indicative of his research excellence.

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The Dean’s Distillate

We are currently in the midst of significant budget cuts to our Pharmacy program, however, one of our graduating Pharmacy students commented to me in the hallway how happy I looked despite the ongoing budget concerns at the University of Manitoba. She told me she was glad to see me smiling. Yes, despite “budget disinvestments” and tough decisions we have had to take in the past year there is so much to be proud of here I can’t help but smile. I keep an ‘Attitude of Gratitude‘ each and every day as your Dean of Pharmacy because everywhere I turn I see incredible student, faculty and alumni achievements that inspire me. Our pharmacy students have performed exceptionally well again on the national pharmacy board examinations and at Professional Development Week. I also see a profession progressing forward (albeit incrementally) in a positive trajectory. Here at the University of Manitoba we are built on a strong foundation of outstanding educators, researchers, and clinicians and we are advancing Pharmacy together. Smile and be proud.

Since this hallway encounter I have been contemplating what unites those of us who care deeply about Pharmacy at your alma mater. I reflected on our annual Homecoming activities, the White Coat ceremonies, the Mr. Pharmacy Pageant, the Manitoba Pharmacy Conference, the hockey and curling games, the Skits and Wits and graduation celebrations. There is always a strong turnout of colleagues, students and alumni at our shared celebrations. As I continue to travel this great province of Manitoba (see Dean’s Tour of Pharmacy where I have now visited >90% of all of Manitoba’s pharmacies) and beyond I am constantly finding links and a diversity of connections in our extended Pharmacy kinfolk.

What connects us each time as assorted members of a large extended Pharmacy family is a shared commitment to the profession that comes in many forms: Vaccinating our citizens in inner city neighbourhoods at the WISH Clinic, starting up new community pharmacies in underserved rural locations, counseling families about the importance of diabetes care, assisting patients with smoking cessation, conducting research that is on the cutting edge of human health, and ensuring the quality and safety of our drug supplies. Our commitment to Pharmacy takes many forms, and we always come together because of what the University of Manitoba means to us. Together we advance health and wellness through our education and training in our chosen vocation.

There are many ideas I propose at encounters with alumni to ensure that we remain on the leading edge of the profession. First, we very much need our own Patient Simulation Clinic in Pharmacy. We also need greater assistance in a Business Plan Development program. A thriving pharmacy community depends on both entrepreneurs and clinicians alike. I am attempting to raise funds for these initiatives in a fragile economic environment. As with a lot of things these days, we depend on the generosity of many of you in our extended Bison Pharmacy coterie to raise much of the money needed to do so. I have visited you in your pharmacies, in the hospitals, in your homes, and at the shared pharmacy events that bring us into contact. I have seen what you are achieving in pharmacy and what pharmacy has done for your careers and families. Again, I am asking each of you to consider what more can you do for Pharmacy.

This Pharmanews newsletter itself is a means of staying connected and keeping in touch. We are stronger together. With our ‘mortar half-full’ let’s continue to fuel the hopes and aspirations for a brighter future for our profession of Pharmacy.

Thank you for having me as your Dean.
Sincerely,
Neal M. Davies BSc(Pharm), PhD, R.Ph.
Dean and Professor

Follow the Dean’s Tour at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/pharmacy/pharm_locations.html

Dr. Keith Simons’ Retirement from Page 1

Dr. Simons will be awarded the title Honorary Life Member of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada and Honorary Life Member of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba upon his retirement from the University. As a profession, pharmacy should honor its scholars and associate itself with leaders like Dr. Simons. The Manitoba Society of Pharmacists at the Manitoba Pharmacy Conference is hosting a Retirement Reception for Dr. Simons on April 17, 2015 at 5:45 pm at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, MB. All are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Angela.Shank@umanitoba.ca
The Class of 2004 Reunion & Scholarship

By Chris and Michelle Louizos

Alumni from the Class of 2004 celebrated their 10 year reunion on September 19th, 2014. Alumni, faculty, spouses and friends shared a delicious Greek meal (Opa!), reminisced about their time in the pharmacy program and caught up on all of the changes over the years. This included the birth of Quinn Ernest Ng two days prior, who is the son of one of the reunion organizers Sheila Ng (née Moore). As the graduating Class of 2004 completed their program in the Faculty of Pharmacy on the Fort Garry campus, a tour was also given of the Apotex Centre, the cutting edge facility our current students call their home.

The graduating class, along with other generous supporters, was able to create and endow a 2004 Memorial Scholarship. The 2004 Memorial Scholarship was created in memoriam of classmates Lisa Gibson (née Nichol) (2013) and Pak-Wai Chan (2014) and to act as a lasting testament of their support of fellow classmates, pharmacy students and the profession. The available annual interest from the fund will be used to offer one scholarship to an undergraduate Pharmacy student each year.

Congratulations Class of 2015

The Class of 2015 will join the ranks of College of Pharmacy alumni on May 28th at the Welcome to the Profession Ceremony. Earning their Bachelor of Science (Pharm) degrees has taken four years of intensive study, practical work and research. We ask the pharmacy community to join us in congratulating them for their accomplishments. For more information on the Welcome to the Profession Ceremony, please email Sara.Smith@umanitoba.ca.

Victorious in the Banny Bowl

On February 8th, a cold day in Winnipeg, the “Banny Boys”, made up of Pharmacy, Dentistry and Med Rehab students, defeated “Manitoba Meds” students in the annual Banny Bowl Hockey game. Dean Davies was on hand for the ceremonial puck drop before the 6-1 victory. Not to be outshined the Pharmacy Alumni defeated the Pharmacy students on March 1st in a nail-biting defeat 5-3.
Mr. Pharmacy 2014

By Alexis Wanner, 3rd Year student

November 22nd, 2014 marked the 3rd annual Mr. Pharmacy Pageant and Holiday Party for the College of Pharmacy. The competition was close, but 4th year student Joel Hart came out on top and was crowned Mr. Pharmacy 2014. The event was attended by students, faculty and professionals from the community and was a huge success.

The highly anticipated event was co-chaired by Alanna Doell, Alan Phung, and Alexis Wanner on behalf of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) and the University of Manitoba Pharmacy Student Association (UMPhSA). After the previous year’s success, the goal for this event was to include more community professionals and promote unity amongst practitioners and students in a celebration of our chosen profession. The event was also an opportunity to give to those in need. Gently used professional attire was collected and donated to Siloam Mission and the South Winnipeg Family Information Centre.

The event took place at the beautiful Metropolitan Entertainment Centre. Cocktails were followed by a three-course meal before the show began with personal introduction videos for each of the contestants. The eight contestants competing for the coveted title were: from the Class of 2018, Shael Minuk and Jared Fridfinnson, from the Class of 2017, Oscar Quach and Michael Lachowicz, from the Class of 2016, Kevin Huang and Michael Wiebe, and from the Class of 2015, John Kim and Joel Hart. The eight contestants opened the live portion of the pageant with a group dance number choreographed by third year student Joyce Umandap.

While the gentlemen had a quick costume change the judges’ panel was introduced. This year five pharmacists made up the panel, including Dr. Dennis Cote, Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini, Dr. Jamie Falk, Sharon Smith, and Gayle Romanetz. Throughout the night the judges commented on the event, the front-runners in the competition, and also the burden of being a ‘super pharmacist’.

The first competition of the night was the ‘Professional Dress’ portion, where the contestants showed off their sense of style, confidence, and charisma. Riley Love, the Senior Co-stick of UMPhSA and former contestant, announced the biographies as they took to the catwalk. This was followed by the ‘Question and Answer’ portion of the evening. The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba Registrar, Mr. Ronald Guse, grilled the contestants on their opinions about reward points for prescriptions, the Ebola outbreak, and the expanded role of pharmacists.

The second half of the show started with the Pharmacy Practice Competition, sponsored by the Manitoba Society of Pharmacists. In the past, this event has been a pill counting contest. However, this activity alone does not reflect the true role of the modern pharmacist. To better reflect our roles as gatekeepers to patient safety and to encompass the practice of community and hospital pharmacists, a Prescription Reading Competition was held instead. Prescriptions (some of which were written by Manitoba’s own physicians) were displayed, and points were awarded for accurately deciphered drug names, strengths, and dosing regimens. The audience also had a good time trying to guess what each prescription said.

The last competition of the event was the talent portion. The contestants all showed off their unique talents, which included extreme yo-yo tricks, rapping, a mysterious magic show, and solving a Rubix Cube under a time limit.

The time finally came to announce the winners. Mr. Pharmacy 2013, Louis Chute, took the stage to say a few words and to help crown the new winner. John Kim was the recipient of the Mr. Congeniality award, a title voted on by the contestants themselves and meant for the person with the most enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The runner up was 3rd year contestant, Michael Wiebe, who also represented Manitoba in the first ever National Mr. Pharmacy Competition at Professional Development Week 2015 in Quebec City. Finally, Mr. Pharmacy 2014 was none other than Joel Hart. Joel impressed the judges with his quick costume changes throughout the evening and his talent; his own lyrics to well-known songs about life in the College of Pharmacy.

This event is certainly a unique occasion that brings members of the profession together for a great evening of entertainment. Our sincere gratitude goes out to all who volunteered to help organize the event, as well as to those who attended and sponsored the night. This is definitely a tradition that will continue to grow in the coming years. Congratulations to all of the contestants for a job well done, and to Michael for placing first in the talent section in Quebec City!
As the fall semester drew to a close, the College of Pharmacy celebrated excellence in graduate education and research. With the continued support of our incredible donors, student and faculty research is booming in both quality and quantity.

Since 2005 the College of Pharmacy has hosted the Graduate Awards Reception to bestow scholarships to Masters and Ph.D. students and reconnect with the pharmacy community. In 2013, with the generous donation of Dr. Joanne Buggey and the Buggey family, the Leslie F. Buggey Endowed Professorship was established and it was decided this honour would be presented at the annual reception. This year marked the start of a new tradition when the inaugural award winner, Dr. Keith Simons, provided the first “Leslie F. Buggey Professor Lecture” as the invited speaker at this year’s reception. Dr. Simons has worked tirelessly on the development of a sublingual epinephrine tablet that can be used in place of an epinephrine autoinjector to treat life threatening anaphylaxis in allergic reactions.

Dr. Joanne Buggey joined Dr. Neal Davies, Dean of Pharmacy, and Dr. Simons to present the second Leslie F. Buggey Professorship to Dr. Sheryl Zelenitsky. Dr. Zelenitsky will continue her work improving the use of antibiotics and preserving their effectiveness in an era of increasing resistance. When asked how presenting the second Buggey Professorship felt Dr. Buggey, eloquent as always, said “It’s been a great experience for me and more than my wildest dreams.”

In honour of the 25th presentation of the Leslie F. Buggey Graduate Scholarship in Pharmacy, Dr. Ric Procychyn, Pharmacy Class of 1983 and the first winner of this award, was invited to join in the presentation. Drs. Buggey and Procychyn presented the 2014/2015 scholarship to Ms. Divna Calic, a Masters student currently researching antibiotic use in surgery cases. Divna graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 2010 and recently returned for her Masters because of a special interest in infectious diseases and antimicrobials. Further study will help her apply these new skills to help patients in a clinical setting.

With the generosity of Mr. William G. Eamer and the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba, a scholarship has been offered to a graduate student who exhibits excellence in academics and community service each year since 2004. The William Eamer/CPhM Graduate Scholarship in Pharmacy was presented by Mr. Eamer, Mr. Ronald Guse, Registrar of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba, and Ms. Dinah Santos, Vice President of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba, to Ms. Sidi Yang. In addition to her research, developing a nanomicrobicide to prevent the transmission of HIV, Sidi was commended by Mr. Eamer for her commitment to improving health in our communities as an active volunteer. “It’s been a great pleasure for me [and] I’m honoured to present you with this award,” said Mr. Eamer.

For more information about graduate studies at the University of Manitoba’s College of Pharmacy, please see http://umanitoba.ca/pharmacy/.
Rx Preceptor: an online experiential program

The College of Pharmacy is excited to introduce Rx Preceptor: an online experiential program management software.

This program allows us to schedule our students and manage both student and preceptor evaluations online. The major advantage for you as a preceptor will be your ability to complete evaluations of your students on the internet and easily submit them to the College of Pharmacy, replacing the need for paper forms.

How Rx Preceptor will work is very simple. You will receive an e-mail from Rx Preceptor with your online account information once a student is scheduled to your pharmacy by the College of Pharmacy SPEP team. You will then log into the system and personalize your account, such as changing your user name and password. We encourage you to customize your profile with photos, additional qualifications/specialties you may have and any information about your site and practice that you wish to share with potential students. Let’s use the software to its fullest potential! You will be able to see which students are scheduled to come to your pharmacy and be provided with their contact information and resume. Students are still required to contact you 1-2 weeks before their placements begin and, as always, support for preceptors is available through the College of Pharmacy’s SPEP team.

If you have any questions about this new program, suggestions for improving functionality, or are interested in becoming a preceptor, please email Kelly Brink@umanitoba.ca.

Rx Preceptor Website

Staff Transitions

The College of Pharmacy is proud of what our faculty members have accomplished in their careers

Dr. Keith Simons (Class of 1966) will be retiring as of June 30, 2015 after 40 years of service to the University of Manitoba. See Cover story

Dr. Chris Louizos (Class of 2004) will receive his Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree from the University of Florida on May 4, 2015. Dr. Louizos has been an instructor in the College of Pharmacy since 2008 and will continue to offer excellence in teaching and interprofessional practice.

Dr. Ruby Grymonpre (Class of 1988) has rejoined the College of Pharmacy as a full professor as of April 1, 2015 after a productive 10-year appointment with the Interprofessional Education Initiative at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Grymonpre will continue developing her extensive research program and will take a sabbatical Downunder in 2016.

Dr. Archie McNicol has joined the College of Pharmacy from the College of Dentistry. Dr. McNicol has been with the University of Manitoba since 1993 teaching pharmacology and is also the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. We welcome his research and teaching expertise in pharmacology.

Jan Coates BSc(Pharm) 1973 has been hired as our Director of Pharm.D. Development. Jan is an award winning pharmacist who most recently served as a WRHA Regional Clinical Pharmacy Manager for pharmacists at the Victoria General Hospital, WRHA Family Medicine and Emergency Departments, and additional Primary Care and Ambulatory programs, as well as the WRHA Medication Safety and Quality programs.

Janice Bailey has moved on from the University of Manitoba. Janice worked with the University since 1985. She most recently filled the position of Financial Officer in the College of Pharmacy where she played an important role providing financial and human resource direction and facility management. Janice is now the Faculty Head of Business and Technology at Robertson College.
Our History

The Order of Canada is a national order created in 1967 as part of Canada’s centennial celebrations. It is the pinnacle of Canada’s honours system which recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation and humanity.

In our history of Pharmacy in the province of Manitoba two of our alumni have achieved this honour: Muni S. Evers (Averbach), Dip Pharm 1937 and Dr. Louis Melosky, BSc(Pharm) 1955. Muni Samuel Evers (Averbach) (1914-2004), Dip. Pharm., C.M. Muni was from the North End of Winnipeg and the son of a prominent member of Winnipeg’s Jewish community, Myer Averbach who was Chair of the Winnipeg School Board for 15 years. Muni graduated from Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba in 1937. He changed his name to Muni Evers in order to bypass a quota restricting the certification of Jewish pharmacists in British Columbia. Evers served in the Royal Canadian Air Force until 1946 and moved to New Westminster, B.C. where he established the Medical Arts Pharmacy. Evers went on to serve as an alderman for the city and, between 1969 and 1982, served as Mayor of New Westminster. A devoted public servant Evers helped secure funding for the law courts, Douglas College and the Canada Games Pool. He also helped transform the New Westminster industrial waterfront into housing, known today as New Westminster Quay. He served the public in his career as Chairman and Commissioner of the New Westminster Police Commission (1959-1982), Director and Vice-Chairman of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and Vice-Chairman and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Finance Authority of B.C. He became President of the Union of B.C. Municipalities and Vice President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Not to forget his health-care training, Muni served as Trustee of the Fraser Hospital Society, Founder and First President of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (B.C. Division), and President of the B.C. Pharmaceutical Association. Muni was recognized for his service to his community and the profession of Pharmacy and was named New Westminster Citizen of the Year and recipient of the Queen’s Medal and Plaque (1952-1977). In 1984 Muni Evers was recognized for his contributions to general society when he was awarded the Order of Canada.

Dr. Louis Melosky BSc(Pharm), D.D.S.,F.I.C.D. C.M. was born in Oakburn, Manitoba and received his BSc(Pharm) in 1955 along with the Gold Medal in Pharmacy from the University of Manitoba and the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association. As Manitoba did not have a Dentistry School at the time, he went to the University of Alberta to receive his D.D.S and another Gold Medal in 1959. He completed his orthodontic graduate training at the University of Washington in 1966. He received an honorary fellowship from the International College of Dentistry in 1979. He has been an active member of a variety of professional associations, serving as the President of the Manitoba Orthodontic Society, the Canadian Association of Orthodontists and the Director of the Mid-Western Society of the American Association of Orthodontists. Dr. Melosky is very active in the Ukrainian Canadian Community. He served on the boards of the Holy Family Nursing Home, the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, the Holy Family Catholic Church, the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Winnipeg and as the Mayor of the Kiev Pavilion during Winnipeg’s Folklorama Festival. He has been a leading supporter of Manitoba’s Ukrainian –English bilingual program, serving on the advisory board of Parents for Ukrainian Education. He was also the President of the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies and served as the National Chairman of the Canadian Multiculturalism Council. He was honoured by the Osvita Foundation in 1982 and was a recipient of the inaugural Bulava Award from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Manitoba Provincial Council in 2014. Furthermore, Dr. Melosky was a member and Chair of the University of Manitoba’s Board of Governors. He was also a distinguished Professor of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba. In 1990 Louis Melosky was recognized for his contributions to the academic, social and cultural life of Winnipeg, particularly the Ukrainian community, when he was awarded the Order of Canada.

At the College of Pharmacy we are proud to have such distinguished alumni such as Muni Evers and Dr. Louis Melosky.
CPhM Awards 2015

These awards will be presented during the annual Manitoba Pharmacy Conference, taking place April 17th-19th in Winnipeg.

2014 Pharmacist of the Year
Dr. Shawn Bugden (1991)

Bowl of Hygeia for Outstanding Community Service
Barret Prochyslyn (2009)

Patient Safety Award
Jan Coates (1973)

Bonnie Schultz Memorial Award for Pharmacy Excellence
Rick Thurmeier (1980)

Honorary Life Member
Dr. Keith Simons (1966)

50 Year Gold Pins
Ronald Corrigal (1965)
Robert Paul (1965)
Muriel Redwood (1965)

25 Year Silver Pins
Thomas Boyko (1990)  Bernadette Ogoms (1990)
Lengim Chen Ingram (1990)  Janet Penner (1990)
Lora Jaye Graye (1990)  Suzanne Soble
Laurie Kaminsky (1990)  Shafica Takla
Ishwar Master (1989)  Bradley Toth
Darcey Mosquin (1990)  Dr. Walter Watral (1990)

How can I Assist?

Contributions to the Prescription for the Future Fund allow the College of Pharmacy to strategically invest in equipping our laboratories and classrooms with cutting edge technology, assisting our students in their professional development through travel to conferences and outreach activities, and recruiting and retaining excellent faculty and staff. You can even give online at http://umanitoba.ca/admin/dev_adv/howtogo/donation/

Alumni Passings
Martin Sexton, Class of 1988
Kristin Cada (de von Flindt), Class of 1987
Joseph Yuen, Class of 1972
Rene Mulaire, Class of 1954
Dorothy Murphy (Perry), Class of 1949
Reginald Harman, Class of 1945